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only get at it ; for it was during these years that the Feudal System was developed in England, just as it was during the later Carolingian period on the Continent ; in these years it was that the old Constitution of England was forgotten, and that the nation was prepared by degrees for that new life that began under the Plantagenets. It is not, therefore, these dull campaigns, these plots and treasons and cruelties, that the reader wants. Mr. Cobbe has done a service in bringing some order out of the tangled snarl of the chronicles ; but he would have done better still if he had attempted to do for the constitutional changes what he has done for the dynastic events. And it is not that he lacks power for this, for his best passages are those in which he leaves the annals, and analyzes character or motives, or describes ecclesiastical events,—for in regard to these he has done some good work ; witness the account of the Council of Rheims, held by Pope Calixtus II. But as Mr. Cobbe neither attempts himself to unravel the constitutional history of this epoch nor gives us the materials to do it for ourselves, we must wait in patience for Mr. Freeman's closing volumes, having entire confidence that in them we shall find just what we want.

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5. — *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut from October, 1706, to October, 1716, with the Council Journal from October, 1710, to February, 1717, transcribed and edited in accordance with a Resolution of the General Assembly.* BY CHARLES J. HOADLY, Librarian of the State Library. Hartford: Press of Case, Lockwood, and Brainard. 1870. 8vo. pp. 612.

No community in the world has so good a printed record of its administrative history as Connecticut. Nothing of the kind could be possessed by European nations, with their origins in times when there was no printing and little writing, and with their very different methods of transacting public business. The governments of our New England plantations kept their journals from the first. Those of Massachusetts and of Plymouth down to the time of the Revolution of the seventeenth century have been excellently well produced in print by Mr. Shurtleff and Mr. Pulsifer ; but their plan, determined by the legislative order under which they acted, did not admit of such illustrations from collateral sources as have been collected by the Rhode Island and Connecticut editors. Mr. Bartlett's "Records of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," covering, as far as the extant materials allow, the whole ground from the beginning to the year 1792, is extremely rich in such illustrations, but it is necessarily less satisfactory,

on account of the loose habits of the eccentric people of those colonies in respect not only to the keeping of records but to the transactions which make the matter of public registration.

All persons interested in our New England history know the extraordinary exactness, fulness, and rare merit in all respects, of Mr. Hoadly's "Records of the Colony and Plantation of New Haven" from the beginning of that community in 1638 to its political extinction in 1665, and of Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull's "Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut" from the beginning in 1636 till the revival of the old government in 1689 after the usurpation of Sir Edmund Andros. Mr. Hoadly's two later volumes, of which the second is now before us, contain the records of the General Court of Connecticut (constituted after 1698 of two branches) from 1689 to the end of 1716, the third year after the accession of the House of Hanover to the British throne. As much of the contemporaneous journal of the Council, or Board of Magistrates, as has been preserved, has been incorporated into the record, with the convenient distinction of a smaller type. Some orders, not appearing on the colonial journals, but known from other documents to have been passed, are inserted in their historical place with a similar mark of discrimination.

An interest of the most agreeable kind attaches to the passage of history to which these two volumes relate. Enjoying, unlike both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, both a government strictly her own, and immunity from the ravages of French and savage war, — unlike Rhode Island, the tranquil order of a religious population, — Connecticut was the happiest of the colonies of New England. Her towns, rising within the period from thirty to nearly fifty in number, had each its church and its educated minister. Her free schools raised all her children above the hardships and the temptations of poverty, and prepared them for the discharge of the duties of virtuous citizens. The agricultural industry, which mostly employed her people, was favorable to health, frugality, content, and love of freedom. Her caution, and the less urgent demands upon her for costly military preparations, had saved her from incurring heavy debt, and she had little share in the financial embarrassments which weighed so heavily on the more powerful colony. Her relations with the mother country brought little occasion for conflict or alarm. Encouraged by the prospect of permanent self-government, as the danger of interference from England seemed to diminish, Connecticut might address herself — as she did, with the wise solicitude which these volumes attest — to measures for the improvement of her institutions and the well-being of her people.

Mr. Hoadly's last volume covers one half of the time of the benefi-

cent administration of the only clergyman who was ever chief magistrate of a New England colony. The Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall, then of New London, afterwards of New Haven, was chosen Governor of Connecticut in 1707, after the third John Winthrop's death, and was continued in this office by successive elections till his own death in 1724. In the critical period through which he conducted the administration there was revealed a widely-reaching dissatisfaction with the ancient strictness of religious rule. His energetic character sustained as much as was then defensible of the ancient rigor, and helped to devise securities for it in the famous Saybrook Platform. With a grand love of learning, which he brought from Harvard College, he drew freely from an affluent fortune to build up in his adopted home the college at New Haven, which through the succeeding generations has so magnificently rewarded his care. With an obstinate prudence which would not be mystified nor coaxed nor bullied, he kept his colony out of the raging whirl of paper money, holding within such limits its promises to pay, extorted by the ill-fated expedition for the conquest of Canada, that many years passed before they ceased to have the whole value which they represented, and the depreciation never became considerable. His hand upon the helm was always firm and steady. No wonder if some thought it heavy and rough. His abilities, energy, various accomplishments, and generous public spirit everybody had to own, whatever grudge they bore him. No name, on the long list of Connecticut worthies, weighs for more in the establishment of that character which through generations not a few clung to "the land of steady habits." The record of the administration which he superintended deserves the admirably well-furnished and skilful diligence which has been expended upon this volume.

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6. — *The Iliad of Homer, Translated into English Blank Verse.* By WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT. Boston: Fields, Osgood, & Co.

AMONG the various theories according to which poems have been translated, two seem to us to be sound. Both are founded on the fact that the distinctive and inimitable part of a poet is his style, and the fact that the forms of his verse are essentially native to the language in which he writes. To illustrate the first proposition: The parting of a soldier from his wife and child before a battle is an incident repeated a million times in every century. The parting of Hector and Andromache is made by a poet's style the one immortal incident of the kind. To illustrate the second proposition: Latin and Greek verse is